

the Province. As regards the habits and plumages of this species I have nothing to add to my former remarks ('Ibis,' 1908, pp. 495-6).

66. ANTHUS SPIPOLETTA COUTELLII.

Anthus spinolettus Shelley, p. 132.

Anthus spinoletta coutellii Hartert, Vög. d. pal. Fauna, Heft iii. p. 281.

This form of the Water-Pipit is an abundant winter visitor to the Province. It arrives in autumn and remains till April.

67. ANTHUS CAMPESTRIS (Linn.).

Anthus campestris Shelley, p. 134.

The Tawny Pipit appears to be resident in the Province. I have never found the nest, but this is no doubt owing to lack of opportunity. I have obtained immature examples in first plumage in autumn and adults in winter and spring.

68. ANTHUS RICHARDI Vieill.

The only example that I know to have been obtained in the Province is an adult male shot by myself on November 17th, 1908, near Giza. For the recorded occurrences of this species in Egypt, *cf.* 'Ibis,' 1908, p. 496.

[To be continued.]

XII.—*A Note on Molpastes magrathi Whitehead.*

By R. BOWDLER SHARPE, LL.D., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

(Plates V. & VI.)

THE Editors have asked me to write a few words on the curious species of Bulbul which Lieut. C. H. T. Whitehead has lately named after Major H. A. F. Magrath (see Whitehead, Bull. B. O. C. xxi. p. 48 (1908); *id.* Ibis, 1909, p. 114).

Thanks to Lieut. Whitehead and Major Magrath, the British Museum contains an ample series of specimens of the Bubluls which have served for the interesting essay they have written on these forms.



4/5

West, Newman imp.

MOLPASTES MAGRATHI.

MOLPASTES INTERMEDIUS. (Plate VI.)

Molpastes intermedius (A. Hay); Oates, Faun. Brit. Ind., Birds, i. p. 272 (1889); Whitehead, Ibis, 1909, p. 111.

The three specimens from Kohat mentioned by Lieut. Whitehead (Nos. 634, 733, 735) appear to me to be certainly *M. intermedius*. They differ slightly *inter se*, the male having brown stripes on the lower flanks, while the others (male and female) are uniform ashy grey on the latter; all have the dark brown ear-coverts of typical *M. intermedius*. This species probably interbreeds with *M. leucogenys*, according to Major Magrath, and Mr. Donald has twice seen the two forms pairing together.

I have again examined the series which is enumerated by Lieut. Whitehead (above, p. 112), and I confess that I have never seen a more wonderful example of the hybridizing of birds in a wild state. There can be no question that all these specimens contain a certain amount of admixture, one of the other. Typical *M. leucogenys* has the chest uniform like *M. leucotis* (Pl. VI.), and both have lemon-yellow under tail-coverts and pure white ear-coverts, whereas *M. intermedius* has brown ear-coverts and crimson under tail-coverts, as well as a decidedly long crest. When the hybrids have a mottled brown chest (*M. intermedius*), the ear-coverts generally follow the brown ear-coverts of *M. intermedius*, and the crest is also long. The under tail-coverts vary from orange to crimson. There is, however, no rule as regards colour, and, as Lieut. Whitehead says, "some are more like *M. intermedius*, and others more like *M. leucogenys* or *M. leucotis*."

I quite agree with what Lieut. Whitehead and Major Magrath say about *M. leucogenys*, of which the breast varies in colour, some birds being more ashy grey than others, but the under tail-coverts are always lemon-yellow.

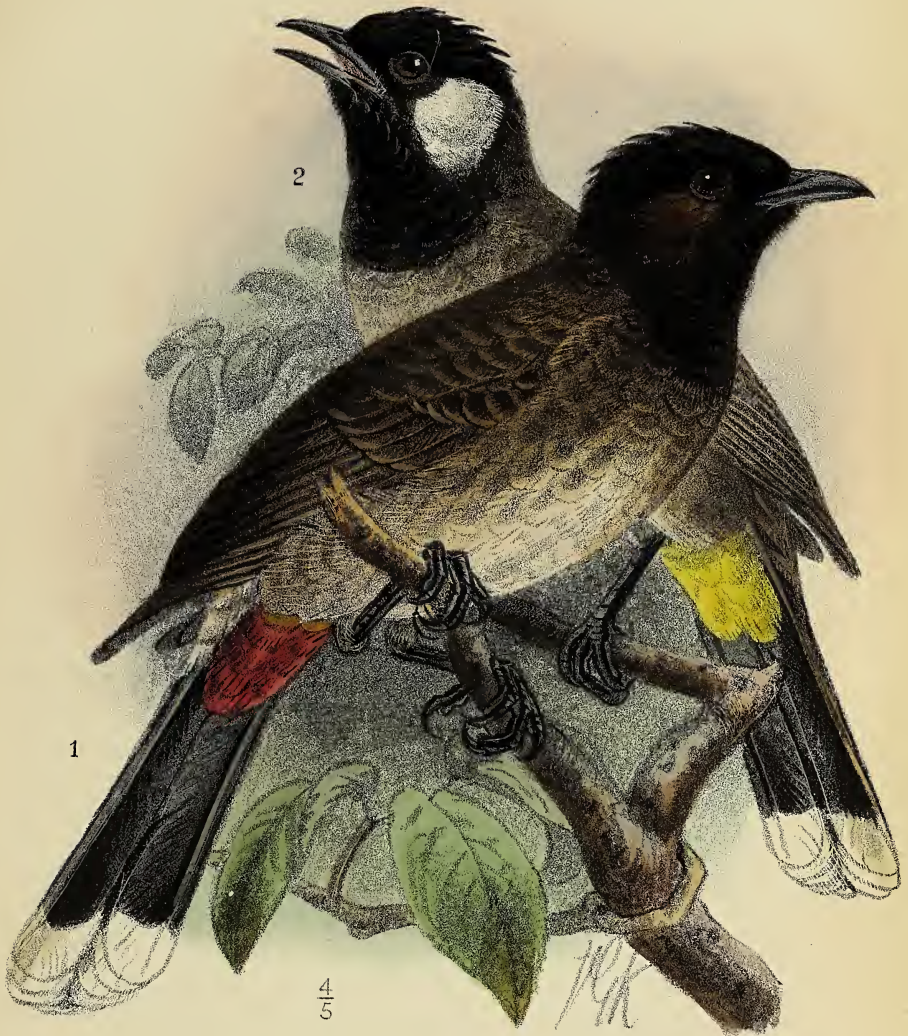
Sometimes there is some brown mottling on the chest, but as a rule this is uniform, and the ear-coverts are pure white, very few having any shade of dusky. Major Magrath observes on one of these specimens: "Consorts with *M. leucotis*"; and adds that it seems likely that the two species interbreed, though he has not actually observed a

fertile cross. The series collected by my two friends certainly points to hybridizing, the ear-coverts when sullied with brown being accompanied by a browner and longer crest (*M. leucogenys*), while pure white ear-coverts accompany a shorter and blacker crest (*M. leucotis*).

Molpastes magrathi (Pl. V.) has deep orange-coloured under tail-coverts, sometimes slightly inclining to crimson. The chest varies from uniform ashy grey to grey with more or less black mottling, the feathers being black in the centre, with ashy margins. I agree with Lieut. Whitehead that, on the present evidence, it is impossible to pronounce these birds to be hybrids. They could only be hybrids between *M. leucotis* and *M. intermedius*, but the latter does not occur in Bannu.

XIII.—*Notes on some Birds collected during a Cruise in the Caribbean Sea.* By PERCY R. LOWE, M.B.O.U.

THE following paper is chiefly based on a collection of birds which I made during the winter of 1907–1908, while cruising with Sir Frederic Johnstone in his yacht 'Zenaïda.' It includes, among others, notes on the species met with in some little-known islands off the north coast of Venezuela. Thanks also to Sir Frederic Johnstone, I have previously been able to describe the birds of Margarita and Blanquilla Islands, while some years ago Dr. Hartert described the birds of Curaçao, Bonaire, and Aruba ('Ibis,' 1893, p. 318); so that my present notes on the birds collected and seen in the island groups of Los Testigos and Los Hermanos make another step towards completing the account of the birds of this interesting chain of islands—the true Leeward Islands. In an endeavour to make them still more complete, I have added a list of the birds which I met with in the Cariaco Peninsula; for not only must the geological formation of this interesting strip of land be referred to the same primitive period as is represented in Margarita, Blanquilla,



West, Newman imp.

1. MOLPASTES INTERMEDIUS.
2. MOLPASTES LEUCOTIS.